

HB-1696

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:14:24 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/4/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Johanson, Vice Chairperson Kitagawa and Members of thr Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

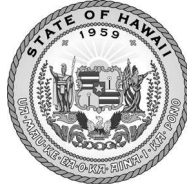
I am Jennifer Chiwa and have lived on Oahu my whole life. I currently reside in Makiki.

Please support HB 1696.

Mahalo.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

LATE

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1696 Relating to Fireworks

I am Steven Goble, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 1696, which increases the fireworks display permit fee from \$110 to \$300.

The permit fee has remained the same for 15 years; however, administrative costs to process, review, and approve have increased. This includes an on-site verification of fireworks inventory before and after the event, inspection of pyrotechnic equipment, evaluation of the firing site and safety precautions, distance to audiences, proximity to adjacent structures, nearby combustible vegetation, and weather conditions. Furthermore, the illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks permit fees to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

The SFC supports legislation to potentially deter the illegal use of fireworks. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 1696.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Goble".

STEVEN GOBLE
Chair

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

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Sincerely,

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STEVEN GOBLE
Chair

SG/GL



LATE

PEARL CITY NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 21 <https://pearlcitynb.com/>

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

Chair Larry Veray, Vice-Chair Dion Mesta, Secretary Charmaine Doran, Treasurer Guy Inouye, Kuni Agard, Elayne Funakoshi, Jayden Liu, Lawrence Miyazono, Kelsey Poaha, Shanda Delos Reyes, Tony Velasco

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO EMPLOY THEIR RESOURCES TO STOP TONS OF ILLEGAL AERIAL FIREWORKS EXPLOSIVES BEING TRANSPORTED TO HAWAII

WHEREAS, several Hawaii residents have complained about illegal aerial fireworks that are negatively impacting their daily lives with bad actor neighbors and individuals launching low altitude extremely loud aerial bomb firework explosions at all hours of the day, all year around and primarily targeting neighborhoods late evenings while people are resting or at sleep, and

WHEREAS, bad actor individuals have modified illegal fireworks into Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) such as pipe bombs to create a much greater low altitude or ground extremely loud explosions which severely impacted the health and safety of the elderly in care homes, disabled Vets with PTSD, children and family pets with some running away from home and being hit by vehicles, and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature previously took action on illegal aerial fireworks with increasing fines and developing a task force in the year 2010 comprised of the Federal Government representatives from ATF, U.S Customs, U.S. Coast Guard, HPD, HFD and port facilities commercial shipping companies; however, this task force did not produce results or any interdiction of illegal fireworks at our port facilities due to the excuse of inspectors claiming there are too many containers to be inspected and the community perception of possible corruption with inspectors, and

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Police Department is overwhelmed with the number of 911 calls that come in all year round and especially for New Years celebrations but the current law requires police officers to actually witness bad actor neighbors and individuals lighting the fuse of illegal fire works before any citation can be initiated or any further City prosecution which is not realistic for arresting the bad actors, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government such as ATF, FBI and Customs and Border Protection have the classified resources, technology and capabilities to identify, track, interdict and prosecute individuals involved in trans-national organized crime rings transporting and selling tons of explosive illegal aerial fireworks between China and the U.S., which support bad actor residents terrorizing Hawaii neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, it is suspected by the community and others that the bulk of illegal fireworks are produced in Liuyang, China, transported to Shanghai where the product is loaded into shipping containers and onto Chinese cargo merchant vessels bound for Los Angeles where the product is suspect to be transited by ground to other destinations where the product is then placed into Trojan Horse non-declared explosive shipping containers disguised as high priority goods which are then shipped to major U.S. mainland cities and Hawaii, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government agencies have the capability to track containers and those suspect containers could be inspected at Honolulu Ports by Federal Agents with trained sniffing dogs or technology devices previously used in the Middle East for detecting explosive material and IEDs, and

WHEREAS, deceptive shipping containers arrive in Hawaii, usually by October each year base on a spike in use of illegal aerial bomb fireworks and this material is temporary stored in commercial warehouses and neighborhood communities and it is only a matter of time where there could be a fireworks accident in this storage area blowing up a city block or residential neighborhood taking many lives of our residents, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Pearl City Neighborhood Board is requesting our State Legislators and Congressional Representatives to request assistance from the Federal Government to employ their resources to stop illegal fireworks from entering Hawaii ports and to collect evidence for prosecution for all involved in the shipping and storage process to

include bad actor local government employees involved in the distribution of illegal fireworks that should be charged with Class “A” felonies and loss of retirement pensions, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Pearl City Neighborhood Board requests the State Legislature to improve current illegal fireworks and explosive laws to increase fines and coordinate with the City and County of Honolulu and Judicial authority to develop a monetary reward amount to solicit information from residents on locations of storage of illegal fireworks in warehouses and residential areas to help mitigate this serious safety situation in our neighborhoods and commercial areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pearl City Neighborhood Board requests that Hawaii District Court improve the timeliness for neighborhood residents to litigate potential law suits against bad actor neighbors and individuals to collect punitive damages for the terroristic loud explosions gravely impacting the health and safety of their families and pets with the use of eye witnesses reports coupled with video evidence, signed affidavits by neighbors and HPD police reports for each terroristic loud explosion event that will support the civil suit and possibly lead to criminal prosecution, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Hawaii Congressional Representatives; Governor David Ige; Senator Clarence Nishihara; Senator Bennette E. Misalucha; Representative Gregg Takayama; Representative Roy Takumi; Mayor Rick Blangiardi Honolulu City Council, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Honolulu Office; Federal Bureau of Investigation Honolulu Office; U.S. Customs and Border Protection Honolulu Office; Joint Interagency Task Force - West USINDOPACOM; and all Neighborhood Board Chairs.

The Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21 unanimously approved at its January 25, 2022 Regular Board meeting, by 10-0-0 vote.

Submitted By: Larry Veray, Chair



Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director



Kazuo S. K. L. Todd
Fire Chief

Eric H. Moller
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

LATE

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1695 Relating to Fireworks

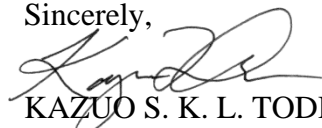
I am Kazuo S. K. L. Todd, Fire Chief for the Hawai'i Fire Department. I support HB 1695, which increases the fireworks display permit fee from \$110 to \$300.

The permit fee has remained the same for 15 years; however, administrative costs to process, review and approve have increased. This includes on-site verification of fireworks inventory before and after the event. Illegal aerial fireworks and improvised explosive devices have substantially increased in recent years. As a consequence, serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities have occurred. Something needs to be done and I support the increase in fines that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violations.

The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for emergency services, and I respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 1695.

Should you have questions, please contact me at 808-932-2903 or kazuo.todd@hawaiicounty.gov

Sincerely,


KAZUO S. K. L. TODD
Fire Chief
Hawai'i Fire Department

KT:lk

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 4, 2022

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1696 Relating to Fireworks

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HB 1696, which increases the fireworks display permit fee from \$110 to \$300.

The permit fee has remained the same for 15 years; however, administrative costs to process, review, and approve have increased. This includes an on-site verification of fireworks inventory before and after the event, inspection of pyrotechnic equipment, evaluation of the firing site and safety precautions, distance to audiences, proximity to adjacent structures, nearby combustible vegetation, and weather conditions. Furthermore, the illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended the legislature consider increasing fireworks permit fees to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the HFD. We support legislation to potentially deter the illegal use of fireworks and respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 1696.

Should you have questions, please contact Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 808-723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheldon K. Hao".

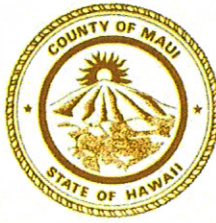
SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732

February 4, 2022

LATE

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL (HB) 1696 RELATING TO FIREWORKS

I am Bradford Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC supports HB 1696, which increases the fireworks display permit fee from \$110 to \$300.

The permit fee has remained the same for 15 years; however, administrative costs to process, review, and approve have increased. This includes an on-site verification of fireworks inventory before and after the event, inspection of pyrotechnic equipment, evaluation of the firing site and safety precautions, distance to audiences, proximity to adjacent structures, nearby combustible vegetation, and weather conditions. Furthermore, the illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks permit fees to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

The SFC supports legislation to potentially deter the illegal use of fireworks. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 1696.

If you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Ventura".

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

LATE

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Board President Poi Dogs & Popoki
In support of HB 1696 - Relating to Fireworks
With Proposed Amendments
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Friday, February 4, 2022, 2 pm – via Zoom

Aloha Chair Johanson and members of the Committee,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We are in support of HB 1696 which would increase the fireworks display permit fee.

Proposed Amendments

We believe the professional pyrotechnic shows which ship fireworks into the state are also allow illegal aerals to enter within their containers. And because the dock inspections are so poorly monitored, these illegal fireworks make their way into the hands of sellers.

Amendment 1: \$300 is not enough. We propose \$1,000 for the permit to allow the State Department of Agriculture to use the resources for inspection.

Amendment 2: Increase the consumer fireworks permit fee from \$25 to \$100. The people using illegal fireworks are a large purchaser of firecrackers. If you drive around on New Year's Eve, the properties blowing up firecrackers are blowing up illegal aerals. These funds should be used for enforcement. They can also be placed into a fund to reward witnesses for the report and prosecution of violators.

Illegal fireworks are a systemic problem. Time to hold everyone accountable. Please pass HB 1696.

HB-1696

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:50:05 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/4/2022 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Larry Veray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21, we support the increase in display fees to \$300.

Our board unanimously approved our resolution on fireworks at our January 25, 2022 Neighborhood Board meeting to include mitigation recommendations for our Congressional Representatives and State Legislators.

Thank you in advance for approving this bill.

LATE

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

HEARING – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022

To: Rep. Johanson, Chair
and the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Fr: Maureen Andrade, 70 year resident of Waipahu

Subject: Testimony on all 7 fireworks bills (HBs1695, 1696, 2502, 1969, 2273,
2275 and 1604)

Aloha Chair Johanson and members of the CPC Committee. My name is Maureen Andrade. I have been a resident of Waipahu for 70 years and during my younger years fireworks were a way to bring in the new year... "firecrackers, sparklers" and it was enjoyable.

Today, every single one of us have witnessed an alarming amount of illegal fireworks... explosives, canister type bombs, homemade bombs and aerals, jumping jacks etc. None of these are LEGAL right? None of these are done for "religious purposes" right?

I am the president of the Village Park Community Association, a little more 1800 homes. For more than 2 years now, every single night, we have been terrorized by very loud explosives, bombs and aerals. It starts at 6:30 pm into the late night and sometimes 1:00 – 3:00 am. We have not had a quiet night at all. I know that we are not the only community that are experiencing this, so in short...

I am in support of all the bills listed on this agenda, I just pray that one of them will find its way to the floor and gets the votes we need...

Mahalo for you time,

Maureen (mo) Andrade
808-386-5623
94-686 Kahue Place
Waipahu, HI 96797
email: andrade_maulena@yahoo.com

LATE

HB-1696

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 12:12:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/4/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samuel Mitchell	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I support HB1696 which raises the fine for illegal fireworks to \$300.

The fine could be higher but I think this bill is a good start.

Sam Mitchell (Makiki Neighborhood Board & Nextdoor Stop all illegal Fireworks group)

HB-1696

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 8:36:26 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/4/2022 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cory Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members,

I am testifying in support of the HB 1696, and generally any legislation that would curb the use of illegal fireworks. As a Waipahu resident it is clear that current regulations around fireworks are not working. Every year loud explosions begin occurring as early as October and into Thanksgiving and the holiday season in December leading up towards New Year's Day. The problem has gotten worse and fireworks become more common around major sporting events such as boxing and MMA events, UH football games, and the NFL playoffs. Last week during the divisional NFL championships fireworks were set off after every touchdown. It is becoming unbearable. I want to thank Representative Aquino for introducing this bill to bring our quality of life to our neighborhoods and also relief to our pets that suffer severely from fireworks.

Mahalo,

Cory Chun

(808) 781-0308